ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have received notices of the following motions for adjournment of the business of the House. From Mr. Sankaranarayanan Tampi:

"I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent and public importance, viz., the political situation created in the country by the serving of a ban order on Mr. P. T. Punnoose, Secretary Communist Party, Travancore by Government."

STATEMENT.

Mr. P. T. Punnose was arrested and detained in custody under the Defence of Travancore Rules till 23rd July 1945 on which date he was released. He is now served with a ban prohibiting him from doing any political work. This amounts to curtailing the freedom of a citizen from doing lawful work."

I am ruling this motion out of order because it is not consistent with public interest. But in doing so, let me make it clear that it was as a matter of concession that Mr. P. T. Punnose was released. Government came to the conclusion that it was not necessary or expedient to keep him in jail and incur the expenditure involved in keeping him there. They also came to the conclusion that the speeches that he made were so inciting and so dangerous to public safety, that, for some time at least he should be prevented from indulging in such activities. Therefore the order has been served upon him. That is the point. I cannot allow a discussion on that matter because it is a matter entirely within the executive powers of Government, who are convinced that these precautions are necessary especially in view of the communist activities in regard to which this Government have very definite views.

The other adjournment motion is this. From Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai:

"I wish to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a matter of public importance, viz., the failure of Government in not preparing and presenting the Audit and Appropriation Report for the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 to the Public Accounts Committee in time so as to enable the Committee to submit their report to this House and have it discussed in the House.

STATEMENT.

The Public Accounts Committee is a statutory body and under rule 13 of the Public Accounts Committee (Supplemental) Rules the recommendations of the Committee shall be embodied in a report which shall be laid before the Assembly. Rule 14 provides that the Assembly shall discuss the Report. This is a right granted to this House by the statute. Though this House elected members to Public Accounts Committee every year and Public Accounts Committees were constituted, Government did not prepare and present the Audit report in time and by this action a valuable right of this House has thus been deprived."

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